IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1, 2, 4 to 7, and 9 to 26 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter and amend Claims 3 and 8 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. and 2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) A data processing apparatus ~~according to claim 2,~~ comprising:

a) input means for inputting data;

b) encoding means for compression-encoding the data;

c) first packetizing means for receiving from a packet size control means data length information for controlling a length of a first data train and for packetizing the data encoded by said encoding means into the first data train in accordance with the received data length information; and

d) second packetizing means for packetizing the first data train generated by said first packetizing means into a second data train,

wherein said encoding means compression-encodes the data on a basis of a predetermined data length, and said control means controls the first data train length in accordance with the predetermined encoding data length and the data length information, and

wherein said control means controls the first data length to have a value being equal to N (N: integer) times the predetermined encoding data length and near to a value not exceeding L (L: integer) times the data length information.

4. to 7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) A data processing apparatus ~~according to claim 6,~~ comprising:

a) input means for inputting data;

b) encoding means for compression-encoding the data;

c) first packetizing means for receiving from a packet size control means data length information for controlling a length of a first data train and for packetizing the data encoded by said encoding means into the first data train in accordance with the received data length information;

d) second packetizing means for packetizing the first data train generated by said first packetizing means into a second data train;

e) reference time information generation means for generating reference time information; and

f) time management information generation means for generating time management information representative of an input time of the data to said input means, in accordance with the reference time information,

wherein said first packetizing means adds the time management information to the first data train based upon a first period, and said second packetizing means adds the reference time information to the second data train based upon a second period,

wherein said encoding means compression-encodes the data on a basis of a predetermined data length, and said control means controls the first data train length in accordance with the predetermined encoding data length and the data length information,

wherein said control means controls the first data length in accordance with the time management information, and

wherein said control means controls the first data length to maximize the predetermined encoding data length satisfying the first period and have a value being equal to a minimum common multiple of the predetermined encoding data length and the data length information or being equal to N (N: integer) times the predetermined encoding data length and near to a value not exceeding L (L: integer) times the data length information.

9. to 26. (Canceled)